



Diana Dooley, 10, of Georgetown got nose-to-nose with a miniature Santa Claus while investigating a table full of Christmas crafts at the Lioness Craft Show last Sunday. Diana was looking over the goods being displayed by Cathy Dooley and

Lorraine Coleman, two of several vendors on hand at the annual event. Homemade baked goodies and Christmas treats were also available at the Craft Show. (Herald photo)

## Corrigan produces new custom vehicle to 'sniff out' drugs

White vans with an orange flashing light on top may soon become a familiar sight - and an unwelcome sight for some - at Canada's airports.

Corrigan Instrumentation Ltd. of Georgetown is now making the "drug-sniffing" van, in response to a growing need to help Canada Customs detect illicit drugs entering the country through airports.

The \$150,000 Ford Econoline vans are being modified to include state-of-the-art technology to aid Canada Customs officials in their search for illegal drugs.

Aside from the orange light on top, the new machine looks just like any other van, but what's inside is what drug smugglers fear.

"They (Canada Customs) wanted something that looked fairly much like a standard van. They don't want to attract attention to it," said Corrigan's Ian Callbeck, a mechanical engineer.

Canada Customs signed a \$1.5 million contract with Corrigan late last year after they and the RCMP used prototypes of the vans during the Calgary Olympics, said Norm Calwell, the vice-president of marketing at Corrigan, a firm owned by Georgetown resident Joe Corrigan.

By mid-January 10 vans will be stationed in Canada's major cities, ready to search for illegal drugs at a moment's notice.

The vans contain highly advanced X-ray equipment called E Scan. Each van has two fold-out television monitors - one color and one a touch sensitive black and white - to X-ray baggage fed through the side door.

Canada Customs and the RCMP often receive tips about possible drug shipments, said Mr. Calwell. When a suspicious shipment comes in on an airplane, the white van can roll right up to the runway and run the baggage through the E Scan before it gets into the hands of the passengers.

The color screen separates organic materials from materials made from steel by color. Drugs, which are organic, will show up as a shade of orange on the screen, while anything made of steel, such as a revolver, will show up blue.

If someone attempts to hide either in a lead casing, the screen will display as green anything the X-rays can't penetrate. A simple touch of the finger on the black and white screen, and that portion is magnified. By a process called grey-scaling on the black and white screen, the operator can see through steel almost half an inch (10 millimetres) thick.

E Scan uses the atomic numbers of materials to determine if they are

steel or organic, said Mr. Calwell. Organic materials with different densities, such as sugar and cocaine, will show up different shades of orange on the screen, so a trained operator will know what to look for, said Mr. Calwell.

The van can be operated with one or two people off its own gas generator, and can be set up in just three minutes.

It's the first entirely portable drug sniffing unit made available - apart from the trusty canines - to Canada Customs, said Mr. Calwell.

Canada's Deputy Minister of Customs, Ruth Hubbard, will officially unveil the van at Pearson International Airport at a press conference tomorrow (Thursday).

The van represents a new step for Corrigan, whose 50 employees make walk-through metal detectors for airports and quality control X-ray detectors for food such as chicken and potatoes at the 25,000-sq.ft. plant on Sinclair Avenue.

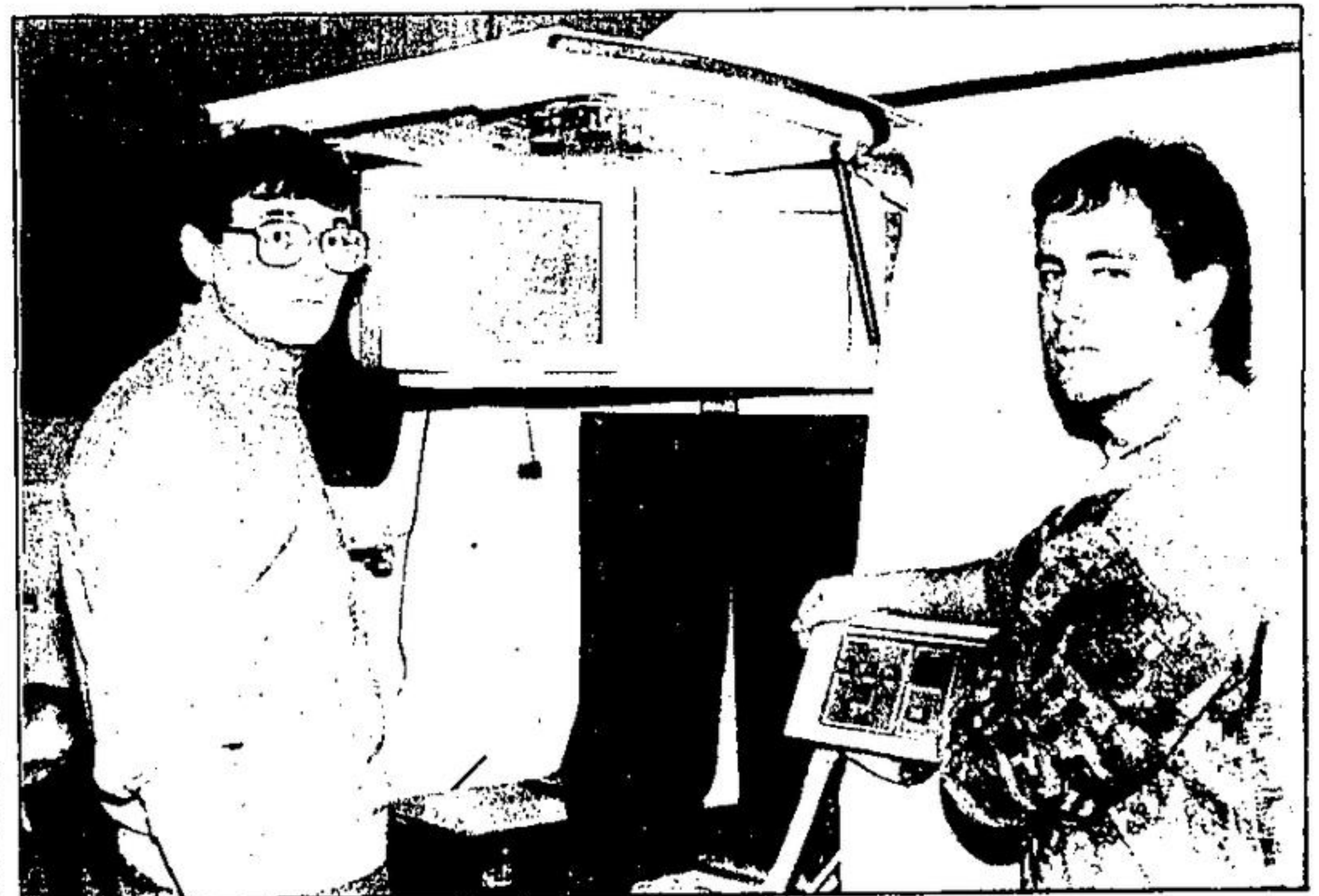


Corrigan Instrumentation marketing vice president Norm Calwell runs a suitcase through a new drug sniffing van developed by the Georgetown firm. The new vans can be set up to operate off their own gas generator by one or two operators in just three minutes. (Herald photo)



Norma Bailey (left) and Pat Woode (centre) get set to take the first ride in the newly-installed elevator at the Georgetown Alliance Church on Main Street South, last Sunday. Custodian William Stone is ready to do the honors after the new elevator, which will serve handicap-

ped and elderly members of the church, was officially opened. Alliance Church pastor Paul Little said Miss Bailey, a longtime member of the Georgetown congregation, was promised the first ride in the new elevator. (Herald photo)



Norm Calwell (left), the vice president of marketing and Ian Callbeck, a mechanical engineer at Corrigan Instrumentation, run a test of a new \$150,000 drug sniffing van being developed at the Sinclair Avenue plant. The two monitors offer a color and black and white image of

the interior of packages or baggage, and they can determine organic substances such as drugs by the color of the image on the screen. Corrigan is making 10 vans for Canada Customs. They will officially be unveiled at a press conference at Pearson International Airport tomorrow. (Herald photo)

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